

REMARKS

Applicant is submitting this amendment in order to respond to the Examiner's requirement for restriction.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute the claims of Group II, that is the claims directed to the method for producing hydrogen by reacting amorphous silicon with an alcohol. Applicant makes this provisional election with traverse.

Applicant has amended claims 4 through 8 to make changes as required according to US Patent Practice and has added new claims 9 and 10. Antecedent basis for new claims 9 and 10 may be found in the specification on page 5, lines 4 to 18, and page 5, line 28 to page 6, line 4. Claims 2 and 4 through 11 are directed to the subject matter of Group II.

Applicant asks that the examiner reconsider his requirement for restriction. All of the claims in this application, including claims 1 and 3, include the reaction of amorphous silicon with a compound containing a hydroxyl functional group, whether that compound is water, an alcohol or a carboxylic acid. Thus there is a common technical feature linking all of the claims together, the reaction of amorphous silicon with a compound

containing a hydroxyl functional group. Therefore the Examiner should examine all of the claims in the present application.

Applicant awaits further action.

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